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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Some Important Happenings in the South

THAT MAY PLEASE OUR READERS

An Assortment of Newsworthy Events That Occurred in our Midst That Cannot Fail to Interest.

A farmers' club will be organized at Fullerton this week.

Parties are in Santa Ana looking over the field for an ice plant.

The Southern Pacific values the end of a street at San Pedro at \$100,000.

The oil industry at Summerland is growing. Over 8000 barrels were shipped out last month.

Several carloads of lemons were shipped out of San Diego last week, bound for the East.

Pasadena is to have a handsome club-house, as the home of the Shakespeare Club of that city.

The first shipment of ripe loquats was made from Orange on March 1. This is about two weeks later than last year.

Fullerton has voted bonds to the amount of \$5000 to build a high-school building. The vote was 108 for the bonds and 20 against.

Secretary Alger states that Heldmann & New of Chicago are the lowest bidders, and will be awarded the contract for the San Pedro Harbor.

Los Angeles is not to be a beneficiary of the railroad rate war now waging at San Francisco and points further north. That fact has been officially decided.

The goods brought by vessels to Port Los Angeles during the month of February, included the following: 587,089 feet of lumber, 27,408 ties and 7101 tons of coal.

After March 13, the Santa Fé Railroad will run but two limited trains a week going east. The third train, which now leaves each Sunday, will be discontinued.

At a special session of the Council last week, Los Angeles was presented with a clear deed to the magnificent tract known as Griffith Park. The park covers an area of 3015 acres.

The Olive flouring mill at Orange, in order to fill orders, has been compelled to bring white corn out from Nebraska, the local supply being insufficient.

According to the San Diego Sun the freight business of the Santa Fé Railroad at that point is nearly 100 per cent. heavier than it was two years ago at this time and is increasing right along.

Excavations are being made for the foundation of the immense lime-kilns just north of the main building of the sugar factory at Ventura. When completed this will be the largest kiln in this State.

"The bill will never receive my vote. A railroad ticket bought and paid for is as much one's property as a plug of tobacco, and in justice can be used, sold or given away, just as any other property."

On the first of this month the opening of the new San Diego Chamber of Commerce, in the Y.M.C.A. Block took place. The interior of the chamber is built of Port Oxford cedar, and is said to be very handsome.

The Southern Pacific Company has in the neighborhood of fifty men at work on the construction of a big concrete culvert, which will span the big canal of the water company on the new line of road into Riverside.

The Terminal Railroad announced at the meeting of the South Pasadena Council last week that they would soon apply for a franchise through the streets of that city. They will, in all probability, run an electric line to Alhambra.

General Passenger and Ticket Agent John J. Byrne of the S. F. P. received from Traffic Manager White of the Santa Fé system at Chicago an advice that his company had decided to keep out of the melee for an indefinite time.

J. W. Lansing has filed on 12,000 inches of water in the Mojave River, which water he proposes to divert by dam at a point eight miles from Barstow and one-half mile south of the A. & P. R. R. The water to be used chiefly in reclaiming 75,000 acres of land by irrigation.

Kern county is exhibiting a desire to climb into the triumphal chariot of the south and ride along into the promised land of prosperity. The Tehachepi Times says suggestively: "If Southern California intends to form a new State, Kern ought to be in it. The north don't help us any and the south might."

Mr. Parris, local agent of the Pacific

Coast Steamship Company at Los Angeles, has received orders from the San Francisco office to discontinue selling through tickets to eastern points except at the regular rates. The consequence is that the tickets sold at the company's office are only to San Francisco.

The Pacific Beach College Company has been organized at San Diego, and a board of directors and officers chosen. The company consists of residents of Pacific Beach, who have purchased the college buildings at that place. The new institution will have a full corps of teachers, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

The steamer Manitoba has arrived from Norway with a party of ninety-three Laplanders and 535 reindeer, destined for Alaska. They will be carried across the continent by order of the government, by the Pennsylvania, Milwaukee and Great Northern Railways, to Seattle, and thence to Alaskan coast points to engage in the work of carrying in supplies to miners.

The people of Glendale are struggling with the question of a \$750 subsidy for the transforming of the Terminal branch from Los Angeles to that city into an electric line. The smaller property owners are ready to do their share if the larger ones will only do what is expected of them. The little city at the foothills will make a great mistake if it allows this opportunity to pass it by.

A joint meeting of the chambers of commerce of Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Ana, Riverside, Redlands and the Packers' and Shippers' Associations will be held in the assembly-room of the Chamber of Commerce this week. This meeting is held to consider the advisability of asking for a reduction in freight rates on seedling oranges, and for the purpose of forming plans of procedure.

The San Jacinto Land Company has a large force of men preparing 100 acres of land for the reception of orange and lemon trees. The company does not share the belief of some people that there are too many oranges grown in the country already. The company, which is composed of Englishmen, will, it is understood, devote its energies to developing trade and market in London for their fruit.

Despite the decision of the Committee of Thirty that La Fiesta de Los Angeles must be abandoned, the festival will be held this year as usual. The obstacle encountered, and which led the Committee to believe that La Fiesta must be abandoned, was the refusal of the railroads to make their usual contributions to the expense fund, but that has been overcome by the liberality of a large number of Los Angeles citizens.

It now looks as if Pomona is to have one or more daily papers in the near future. Three young men from Los Angeles have been canvassing the business men of the town during the past few days, with a view to ascertain what support they might expect, and now comes the statement made by S. M. Haskell of the Progress, that he will begin the publication of a daily paper very shortly. Pomona is the largest town in Southern California without a daily paper.

San Bernardino physicians are puzzled over a strange and deadly disease that has made its appearance in that city. Several deaths have occurred and one doctor has six cases at the present time. It is called cerebro spinal meningitis for want of a better name. Some cases show symptoms of typhus fever in its most deadly form, while others show those of "spotted fever." An epidemic of cerebro spinal meningitis is said to be prevailing at Skaguay, in Alaska, where sixteen deaths resulted from it in one day.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has transmitted a letter to the Secretary of the Interior recommending the creation of a forestry reserve embracing the Pine Mountain region and the area about Zacatote, situated in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties, California. Congressman Barlow, he states, urges that this territory be combined in one reservation. The region to be reserved is mountainous, unsuited for agriculture and of little value for pasture. The area within the boundaries described in the proclamation is estimated at 1,144,594 acres.

In the Montecito Valley, plowing, which has been briskly in progress since the last rain, has now altogether ceased, the ground being too dry for working. Barley planted in dry ground prior to the storm is above ground and doing finely, and if the storm now prevailing in the northern part of the State should move southward, as the Signal Office predicts, promises an excellent yield. The flow from mountain water sources of supply, while not equal to the amount usual at this season, is still a decided improvement over the summer flow, and citrus tracts are holding their own nicely.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Summary of Late Events That Are Boiled Down to Suit our Busy Readers.

There are six vessels from Alaska overdue at Seattle.

The Chilcoot and White passes are reported to be in good condition.

Ben Beech and C. P. Peet, charged with dynamiting fish, are on trial at Stockton.

The attempt to float the steamer Corona, which was wrecked near Victoria, has failed.

Floods and avalanches have nearly destroyed the town of Monte Cristo, situated in the heart of the Cascade Mountains, Washington.

J. C. Kimble, 60 years of age, a capitalist of Los Angeles, died in San Francisco from a fractured skull received in falling into a store basement.

An English turfman is negotiating with Barney Schreiber for the purchase of Marplot. He wants to secure the colt to race in some of the long-distance races in England.

The eight wholesale and five hundred retail coal dealers of San Francisco, who were members of the "coal combine," have been charged by the Federal Grand Jury with violating the Trust Act.

The story printed in San Francisco that Mrs. John Bradbury, who sprang into unpleasant notoriety when she eloped with Russell Ward, had gone insane, is vigorously denied by her Los Angeles relatives.

A report from Skaguay says Great Britain has hoisted her flag over American territory in Alaska. Five men perished from cold, and scores are dying from a disease resembling cerebro-spinal meningitis.

There will be a big poultry show in Santa Barbara from the 9th to the 12th of March, inclusive, and the Southern Pacific has made a reduced rate for the occasion, tickets good to return as late as March 15.

Hanford is to have one of the largest canneries in the State, the contract having been let for two large buildings. Liberal donations were made to aid the enterprise, but the money is well invested. There is no moss on Hanford.

The Collector of Customs at Port Townsend has received from the Treasury Department official notification of the opening of the Chilcoot Railway and Transportation Company of Alaska, as carriers of bonded freight and merchandise between the sub-port of Dyce and the British line.

Quite a number of California-bred horses have been entered in the Greater New York steeplechase handicap at 2½ miles. Among the number are Snowdown, by Fitzjames; Bonaparte, by Sir Modred; Big Strive, by Surinam; Rifle, by Maxim; Sir Play, by Sir Modred, and Prize, by Sir Modred.

A 12-inch breech-loading rifle arrived at San Francisco from the Watervliet arsenal at Troy, N. Y. and was taken to its new home at the Presidio. A great many horses and men were needed to transport the huge gun through the city streets, and a crowd was attracted by the long procession.

The Oil Producers' Trustees have made two additional contracts with San Francisco parties for the use of Los Angeles oil. That market stands prepared to take all the surplus oil this field affords. As it is, thirty cars have been forwarded in the past ten days, and more will follow as soon as cars are obtainable.

The War Department has issued orders for the immediate transfer of ammunition from the Benicia arsenal to San Francisco. The object is to supply the needs of the mortar batteries and heavy ordnance at the Presidio and Black Point, which constitute the most important of harbor defenses of San Francisco.

The British American Corporation of Vancouver, which recently decided not to take up an option of the Alaska Commercial Company, is sending up to the Klondike a Yukon pioneer, F. G. Hilde Bowker, who will look after the development of the corporation's properties on Stewart River, Bonanza, El Dorado and Bear Creeks.

Mrs. Emma Sutro-Merritt, guardian of her father, Adolph Sutro, who was recently adjudged incompetent, has applied to the Superior Court for permission to sell \$700,000 worth of real property belonging to her father's estate, in order to pay off the debts

against the estate, which are said to aggregate about that sum. The application will be heard on April 4.

Experiments are being made at Barstow to determine the value of crude oil for smelting purposes. An improved burner is under a test for this purpose. Should it be proven that crude oil is as available as coke for such usages, an additional outlet will be obtained which will extend to Arizona, where the great smelting plants of the United States are located.

On March 3 Bishop William Taylor of the Methodist Church at Alameda, received news of the death of his niece, Dr. Jennie Taylor Gordon, who was known to all interested in foreign missions as "Dr. Jennie." She expired at Malange, Angola, December 20. Her husband is an African missionary, and her parents reside at Mechanicsburg, Pa. She lived for years in Africa, and was noted for her medical skill.

MINES AND MINING.

COPPER ON COPPER RIVER

J. H. Robinson, an old miner who was sent to Alaska by a company organized at Los Angeles for the purpose of staking claims along Copper River writes from Odiak. The letter is a repetition of the stories already told of the hardships to be endured, and corroborates former reports of the falsity of stories told of fabulous wealth along the river.

Robinson writes that he ascended the stream as far as possible, but found no traces of gold. He did find, he says, pieces of copper float as large as a man's hand, and so pure that it could readily be whittled with a knife. As the snow was eight to fifteen feet deep at the time of writing, Robinson explained that it was impossible to follow this float or do any prospecting for ledges.

THE WEDGE.

Work is steadily progressing on the Wedge mine at Randsburg, with a force of fifteen men. Most of the work being done is in drifting on the 150 and 250-foot levels. A considerable amount of ore has been stoped out. There are now fifty tons of ore on the dump waiting for the mill to be repaired which ore runs from \$100 to \$150 per ton. This ore will be mixed with ore of lower grade. It is expected that the mill will start up again in about a week and a \$10,000 gold brick may be looked for by the middle of the month. As soon as the \$3000 borrowed from the stockholders for the development of the mine shall have been repaid, the company expects to begin the payment of dividends.

A DEPARTMENT RULING

Regarding the recent ruling in the Interior Department and the General Land Office, concerning the amount of work required on each mining claim before patent would issue and the date when such order goes into effect, Commissioner Hermann states that all claims upon which work was done before December 15, 1897, will be approved. He also states that it will suffice if, in application for patent for a group of claims, work or improvements aggregating in value \$500 for each claim can be shown to have been put upon the group as an entirety. Were \$750 expended upon one location and \$250 on another, jointly owned with the first, both would pass.

MINING NOTES.

The payroll at the Yellow Aster mine at Randsburg is \$400 a day.

The steamer Trave, which sailed for Europe last week, took out 325,000 ounces of silver.

Barstow, the new mining camp located in Inyo county, is now giving steady employment to 100 men.

Surveyor Ogilvie of the Dominion government estimates the amount of gold mined in the Yukon country during the present winter at \$7,000,000.

The Yellow Aster Mining Company of Randsburg has struck a 15-foot ledge of ore assaying \$92 per ton. This is the biggest strike in the Rand district, and in itself is enough to make a good camp.

A rich strike is reported from Rich Hill, Yavapai county, Ariz. A ledge three feet in width has been uncovered, which gives returns of \$600 to the ton. The gold is both free and in copper sulphurates.

Placer mining in Yavapai county, Ariz., is on the increase, and some encouraging results are the consequence. Nuggets varying from 50 cents to \$20 in value are not uncommon. Miners are reported as doing well throughout that section.

A number of old mines in the Caliente and Walker Basin section of Kern county, which were abandoned by the Mexicans years ago, are again being operated by Americans, who have so far met with encouraging success.

EASTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Nine lives were lost in a fire at Charleston.

The Brooklyn elevated railroads will adopt electricity as a motive power.

Dennis Doren, New York, general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, is dead.

The homestead of the late ex-President R. B. Hayes at Fremont has been levied upon to satisfy a judgment of \$5000.

Wm. Slingerly, banker and publisher of Philadelphia, died suddenly of heart disease superinduced by overindulgence in tobacco.

Then people dead and twenty-five injured at the laboratory explosion at Kalamazoo, Mich., other bodies believed to be in the ruins.

Judge Hazen of a Kansas district court has decided that a bicycle is a necessary tool of trade, hence is not subject to be levied upon in an execution for debt.

Railroads in competition with the Canadian Pacific are relieved from the observance of the long and short haul clause of the interstate tariff law; the joint traffic case decided.

James Corrigan has begun suit against J. D. Rockefeller to recover 2500 shares of the Standard Oil Company, worth \$1,000,000. He claims they were taken from him by fraud.

The Yale University boat crew has received a challenge from the Allgemeyner Alister Club of Hamburg, Germany, to participate in the international regatta, to be held in Germany next July. The challenge will not be accepted.

The dispatch-boat Dolphin has been floated in the dry-dock in the navy yard at New York, where she has been undergoing repairs for several months. It is the intention to have the Dolphin ready to go into commission by March 31.

The Transcript prints an interview with Arthur T. Lyman, treasurer of the Lowell Manufacturing Company, concerning a proposed consolidation of manufactories of ingrain carpets in this country, with a view of controlling that market.

Gen. Lew Wallace the eminent author has announced that at his death the city of Crawfordsville, Ind., will come into possession of his handsome study, which has just been completed at a cost of \$40,000. It will be used as a public library.

It was said at the Brooklyn navy yard that the rapid-firing guns just received had been expected for a year, and that no special significance was to be attached to their arrival at this time. Work is being rapidly pushed forward on the cruisers Chicago and Atlanta and also on the drydock.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Six thousand dollars for improving roads in the Yosemite Valley was appropriated by the House.

Gen. Miles considers Spain likely to strike without warning, and believes the country should be prepared for war.

Secretary Gage has sent to the House an estimate of an appropriation of \$150,000 to improve Yaquina Bay, Oregon.

The Senate has confirmed J. P. Miller of Indianapolis to be Consul at Calais, France, and W. T. Fee of Ohio Cienfuegos, Cuba.

The Senate Commerce Committee gave a hearing on the Frye bill establishing a department of commerce and industries with a Cabinet seat.

Congress is rushing the work of appropriation in order to secure an early adjournment, and better progress has been made than for a quarter of a century past.

The Senate has passed the Bacon resolution for the erection of a bronze memorial tablet commemorative of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the Maine disaster.

China has at last been supplied with a money-order system, and the regulations have been reported to the State Department by United States Minister Denby, at Peking.

The Senate has confirmed the nominations of Col. H. C. Corbin, to be adjutant-general with the rank of brigadier-general; W. H. Peck has been appointed postmaster at Lompoc, Cal.

The Naval Committee has agreed on items of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of smokeless powder, \$92,000 for the erection of buildings for the manufacture of powder, machinery, \$60,000.

The Epoca, a sober-minded, conservative paper, says: "We believe that just in the same manner as the Washington government acted in the case of Señor de Lome, which was a case much less grave, so should Señor Guillen declare the case of Gen. Lee. The relations of that officer with the insurrectionists and his maintenance in Havana are prejudicial to the good relations of Spain and the United States."